

Price of a barrel of petroleum

US\$ 72.04

↑0.43

Local photographers exhibit at Westin Art Gallery

Aruba's nature inspires 3 female artists to capture its beauty



By Jan Falcone

PALM BEACH - Three local photographers, Rosalie Klein, Annemiek van Vliet and Janine Flanegin, have come together and produced a new art exhibit of their work at the Westin's Resort's Art Gallery. The results are stunning, as they have captured the beauty of Aruba's nature in many photographs, all

beautiful and original, of the flora and fauna that we all take for granted every day.

The women are showing us a view of Aruba which we may not otherwise notice, as well as the flora & fauna that we do not always get to see in our daily lives.

Captured on film and then stretched on canvas,

you will find owls, cactus of many shapes and sizes, including as seen through windows of ruined "cunuku" houses, seascapes, rockscapes, Aruban architecture, pelicans, desert flowers, the Natural Pool, and other shots taken from an angle that allows us to look at them in a different way.

Continued on Pages 8 & 9



Amazonia Churrascaria is the proud recipient of

Wine Spectator Award of Excellence for 2009



PALM BEACH -- Amazonia Churrascaria has recently been awarded Wine Spectator Award of Excellence for 2009.

Read Page 4

TODAY'S McCOMBO
MONDAY TO THURSDAY

f 7.50
each one

MONDAY
McNUGGETS[®] 10 PIECES

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Amigoe columnist donates profit of book to the donkeys

ORANJESTAD - While Leticia Tromp was studying in Holland (1996-2003), she wrote a series of columns describing her experiences living and studying in Nijmegen.

These delightful columns were published regularly in Amigoe. Recently all the columns have been published as a book entitled "The Best Time of My Life". A very readable book with a treasure trove of experiences. For this reason the book has also been distributed among Aruban youth leaving for Holland for their study time. Most of the remainder of the book edition has been sold and the proceeds donated to The Donkey Sanctuary of Aruba. Leticia has for some years worked as a loyal volunteer at the Bringamosa address, and is now therefore also a loyal sponsor!

There are still a few copies of her book available in the shop at the Santa Lucia sanctuary, open weekdays from 9-12:30 and on weekends from 10-3. Both the book (written in dutch) and the 50 donkeys at this address are well worth a visit; the Sanctuary is one of the few tourist attractions which charges no admission fee. And if you wish to know more before you visit: try the recently expanded website at www.arubandonkey.org



RENAISSANCE
MALL

www.shoprenaissancearuba.com

The Renaissance Mall is located downtown in the heart of Oranjestad at Renaissance Resort



James Smith honored at the Costa Linda Resort



ORANJESTAD - Recently at the Costa Linda Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20

consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador

of Goodwill title. The recent honoring was effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Costa Linda Resort, the place he calls his home away from home. James

Smith was honored as a Distinguished Visitor after visiting Aruba for 11 years. On picture ATA Rep. Ricardo

Croes together with James and also staff from the Costa Linda Resort. □

ALOHA BRIDGE CLUB ARUBA (ABCA)

RESULTS THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2009

A total of 9 pairs attended the Thursday morning bridge session at the Members Lounge of the Aruba Beach Club Resort.

An Dijkman joined the group as a guest player The results 50% and higher are as follows:

- 1 Ghislaine Mendes / Addy Eilers 59.17 %
- 2 Liesbeth van den Ham / Geke In 't Veld 58.33 %
- 3 Sheila Lampe / An Dijkman 57.50 %
- 4 Maritza van Romondt / Willy Flanegin 56.94 %
- 5 Joke Henriquez / Annette Ybeles 51.67 %

RESULTS FRIDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2009

This evening a total of 7 pairs joined the bridge session at the Frank Conway Room of Casa del Mar.

The results 50% and higher are as follows:

- 1 Fred van der Leest / Chris Joosten 65.00 %
- 2 Addy Eilers / Willem Jacobusse 62.50 %
- 3 Joke Henriquez / Willy Flanegin 60.00 %

Aloha Bridge Club Aruba meets twice a week: on Thursday mornings at the Members Lounge of the Aruba Beach Club, starting at 9.00 am and on Friday evenings at the Frank Conway Room of Casa del Mar starting at 7.30 pm. Signing up closes ten minutes before starting time. Fee for guest players: \$ 6.00 or Afl. 10.00 per person.

The club can also be of assistance in finding single players a bridge partner. Please call Addy Eilers : tel. 582-4953

Notice: On Friday, 25 September, being Election Day, there will be no bridge session.

Special Month of September!

Appetizer

- Fish Soup
- Onion Soup
- Conch Fritters
- Escargot
- Salad

Entrée

- **Fresh Catch of the Day** prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.
- **Jumbo Shrimp** from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.
- **Filet Mignon** 8 oz. US Tenderloin
- **Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast**

Dessert

- Chocolate or Banana Cake
- Ice Cream
- Coffee / Tea

* This special cannot be used with any other promotions, vouchers or certificates.

3-course dinner
\$24 per person

Restaurant
Driftwood
Authentic Aruban Seafood

Open daily 5:00 pm - 10:30 pm
(Closed on Tuesdays)
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We also have your favorite Sport, Live on our Big Flat Screens!

Located in Paseo Herencia Mall, Aruba

Amazonia Churrascaria is the proud recipient of

Wine Spectator Award of Excellence for 2009



PALM BEACH -- Amazonia Churrascaria has recently been awarded Wine Spectator Award of Excellence for 2009. "The best way to enjoy this gastronomical adventure called Rodizio," says restaurant Manager Huber Solagnier, "is to pair

it with a great wine, and Amazonia Churrascaria boasts an impressive wine cellar of over 1,200 bottles. With more than 100 wines by the bottle and 16 wines by the glass," he adds, "Amazonia Churrascaria more than qualified for the

highly acclaimed Wine Spectator Awards Program, one of just six restaurants on the island." Restaurants who earn the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence, must adhere to strict requirements, Solagnier goes on to explain, one of



which is the wine storage condition which at Amazonia Churrascaria means a 12-foot tall glass wine vault whose temperature-controlled capacity is over 1,200 viewed bottles. While all red wines are stored at room temperature, white wines are appropriately stored at 50°, Solagnier informs. And with wine prices ranging from \$30 up to \$550 for wines by the bottle, and from \$7 up to \$15 for wines by the glass, every patron stopping by for

dinner can afford and enjoy some delicious wine with his spectacular meal. "To Hubert and his staff, congratulations for earning Wine Spectator's 2009 Award of Excellence for your restaurant," writes Nathan Wesley, Wine Spectator, Restaurant Wine List Awards Manager, "you've got a good wine list and you deserve the credibility and publicity that comes with a Wine Spectator Restaurant Wine List Award." □



MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Food & Music

Shopping • Dinning • Movies • Entertainment

Paseo Herencia
"nos orgullo... Aruba's pride"
Tel: 5866533

**SHOPS ARE OPEN DAILY 10:00 AM - 9:00PM
SUNDAY 5:00PM - 9:00PM**

Monday's - Cultural Dance Show 8:00PM
Friday's & Saturday's - Live Musical Entertainment on plaza
Waltzing Water Show Nightly 7:30PM, 8:30PM, 9:30PM

Paseo Herencia is located in walking distance from the high rise hotels across the Holiday Inn. • Tel: 586-6533

Scala

3 course dinner for
\$28,50 p/p

IGUANA CANTINA
Fresh Mexican Grill

3 course dinner for
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(Service charge & BBO not included)

BISTRO TASTE OF BELGIUM

3 course dinner + 1 FREE glass of house wine for
\$23 p/p

MR. JAZZ STEAKS & JAZZ

3 course dinner for
\$29.95 p/p

MOKAS
Perfect Blend

Your choice of a piece of home made cake + 1 glass of wine
(Catena Zapata Mendoza white wine or Alamos Cabaret Sauvignon)
\$10.-

MOBY DICK'S
SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

appetizer + main dish or main dish + dessert for
\$25 (some restrictions may apply)

Nobushi
Sushi Bar & Asian Cuisine

2 soups + 2 premium rolls = 2 free glass of house wine or
6 premium rolls = 1 free bottle of house wine

FRI DAYS

All you can eat Ribs for **\$19,50** on Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday 5pm - 11pm

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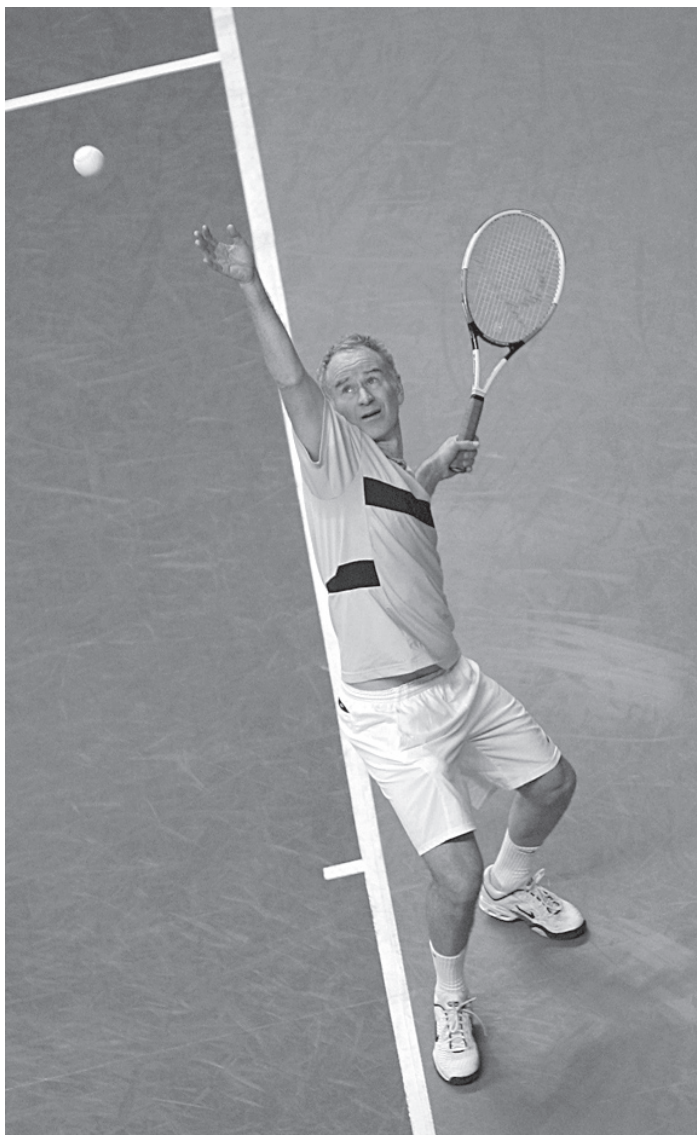
Have it your way



**ONLY
6.75**
AFL. INCL. BBO
EVERYDAY

9 & 10 October 2009

International Tennis Event "Clash of the Titans"



ORAJENSTAD – During the weekend of October 9 & 10 on the tennis courts of La Cabana Tennis Club will take place the fourth tennis competition between the best of Curacao

and Aruba Clash of the Titans. Last year this event took place in Curacao and Curacao won 6-3. In 2007 Aruba won with a score of 5-4. The games will start on Friday

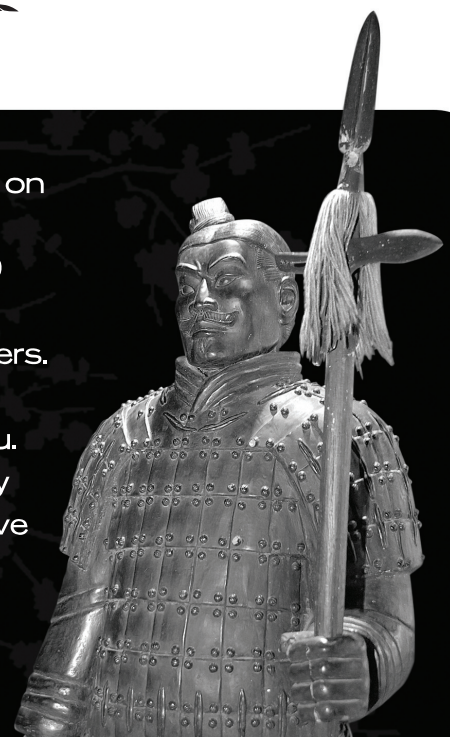
with the double matches and Saturday single. For more information you can contact Humphrey Hose at 5605250. ☐



Blossoms Restaurant will be closed on
Monday September 21 to
Wednesday September 23, 2009
in order to enhance our beautiful
restaurant for our beautiful customers.

We deeply apologize for any
inconvenience this may cause you.
We will be re-opening on Thursday
September 24, 2009 waiting to serve
you with great affection.

Management.



What about an early Belgian dinner?

EARLY BIRD 3 Course Menu

Appetizer - Entrée - Dessert

5-7 pm

BISTRO
TASTE OF BELGIUM

Only \$25.-



As Best Caribbean Song of the Year

Dushi Band hit the 6th place on the nominees list of the Just Plain Folks Music Award



ORANJESTAD - Recently Dushi Band appeared as number 6 on the big list of the Just Plain Folks Music Award.

The local band was nominated for the "Best Caribbean Album & Music of the Year.

For the manager of the band, Hildward Croes, this nomination is one of the biggest achievements.

ABOUT JUST PLAIN FOLKS MUSIC AWARD

The Just Plain Folks Music Awards were started in 1999 as a simple way to recognize the best music submitted by members. JPF Founder Brian Austin Whitney felt the music made by the "other 98%" of the music world often ignored by the mainstream televised music awards shows deserved its own recognition. The judging criteria is based around one basic concept: Does the music move you?

This one encompassing criteria has since been adopted across much of the mainstream music industry to measure the very best quality of the best music being made today. Once again, we start our quest to find the music that moves us most and recognize it with admiration, fairness and dignity (and a cool JPF Awards trophy).

Just Plain Folks is a community of over 51,500 Songwriters, Recording Artists, Music Publishers, Record Labels, Performing Arts Societies, Educational Institutions, Recording Studios and Engineers, Producers, Legal Professionals, Publicists and

Journalists, Publications, Music Manufacturers and Retailers and about every other type of member of the Music Industry. — and host to the world's largest independent music awards. Our organization was created to provide a network of cooperation and inclusion for musicians. We welcome you to join us. We warmly embrace and welcome ALL genres of music, and everyone who creates, facilitates and consumes music around the world — and membership is free!

Our members have won Grammys, Emmys, CMA Awards, Academy Awards, Clio and about every local and regional music related award there is. Our members belong to and are staff and board members of the finest National and International organizations such as NARAS, BMI, ASCAP, SESAC, SOCAN, PRS, NAMM, AES, NARM, NAPM, SGA, AFTRA/SAG, Indiegrl, CMA, NSAI, TAXI and most of the regional and local songwriter and music industry organizations around the world.

Our goals here are simple and straight forward. To provide a networking environment of inclusion and cooperation between our members for the benefit of the group and individuals involved.

To share wisdom, ideas and experiences with others who have been there, and to help educate those who have yet to make the journey.

To form long term relationships with a myriad of other industry professionals whose talents and efforts need a venue to be enjoyed and benefited from.

To set the example for the world of the power of the Internet and total freedom of communication, when it is not restricted by the boundaries of the corporate world, or damaged by the adversarial nature of the music industry in general.

To show others that deep down, we are all much more alike than different. The thoughts and hopes and dreams we all share are much the same whether we are Grammy Winners, Hit Songwriters, Industry leading Superstars in our fields, or we are an 11 year old kid with a new dream, or a 78 year old who still dares to dream!

And the most important goal: To have a lot of fun doing it! So please join us! Participate. Learn. Teach. Share your dream, and help others achieve theirs! Remember...

"We are all in this together."

This is the first time that Aruba appears in the nominees and in the prizes.

Aruba Today congratulates Hildward Croes and Dushi Band for this great achievement. □

Buccaneer Restaurant

Aruba's Legendary Buccaneer Restaurant, serving the freshest fish and seafood from the sea to your to your plate including steaks, duck, poultry and pasta dishes.

Whether you come with the whole family, bring a group of friends, or enjoy for a romantic dinner for two, Buccaneer has the high quality service and fresh, flavorful international dishes that will make your dining experience a memorable. reservations email us at info@buccaneeraruba.com or call 586-6172

Monday - Saturday 5:30-10 pm



Ahoy Matey bring this ad in for a free glass of house wine



The best Brazilian Steakhouse in Aruba! Serving the Island's most exquisite deserts...

The best salad bar can be found in Texas

TEXAS de BRAZIL[®]

CHURRASCARIA

Brazilian Steakhouse

J.E. Irausquin Blvd. • Palm Beach, Aruba

Across from the Playa Linda Resort

297.586.4686 (Serving Dinner Only)

Redeem this ad for
15% OFF*
Valid up to 6 people

*NOT VALID for desserts, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, salad only, children's dinner prices, and split checks. Tax and gratuity not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer or discounts. Limit one certificate per table.

For rewards log on www.texasdebrazil.com

PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

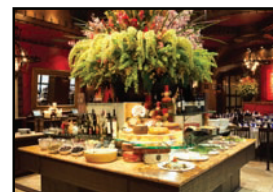
slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

Restaurant
open daily

Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11
Sunday 5 pm - 11 pm

For more information or to
make reservations, please
call 586-4686. ☐



CRAZY FISH MONDAY @ BUGALOE

Fresh 18oz Snapper or Grouper for only \$ 20

PALM BEACH - Fresher than fresh, is the motto of the popular Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill at De Palm Pier. Caught in the morning, served at night... That's the Bugaloe way!

Jumbled Chef Marc Hernandez is proudly presenting his rich platter with an 18oz Red Snapper or Grouper, a choice depending on the catch of that day. "Bugaloe is known for fun and craziness, so it was just a logical step for me to go crazy with this colorful pallet

of exquisite fish, yellow rice and rich vegetables," Chef Marc says. With a smile he adds "And that just for US\$ 20!"

And right he is, as the platter has been a hit from the start. Served with a bottle of white wine this fish feast is truly a delight on your Monday night.

Bugaloe is located at
De Palm Pier in
Palm Beach between
RIU Palace and
Radisson Resort.



OPENING HOURS

Bugaloe Beach Bar and Grill is open daily from 8am till midnight. You may go there for a casual lunch or dinner and on Mondays the special is served from 5:30pm till 10:00pm. Reservations are not needed... just follow the good music, the fun and the smiles on the beach and you will know where Bugaloe is.



SALSA WORKSHOP

Always wanted to learn how to dance Salsa? Well, you will get your chance on Wednesday evening. Reggie and Sabine from ArubaSalsa will show you the moves of Latin

dancing. You will learn how to dance Salsa and Merengue in one hour. The FREE workshop starts at 7:30pm. The popular Salsa live band "PM" will take care of the swinging Latin tunes. Fun guaranteed!

LIVE MUSIC @ BUGALOE

Tuesday 6-9pm: JOYRIDE

Wednesday 7-11pm: PM Band

Friday 6-10pm: PM Band

Friday 10pm - 12am: DJ Jeroen

Sunday 6-9pm: MARISELA & Aquerius

MENU ITEMS

Burgers, Pizzas, Salads
Sandwiches, Wraps
Wings & Calamari

HAPPY HOUR

Every day from:
5 - 6 pm

OPENING HOURS

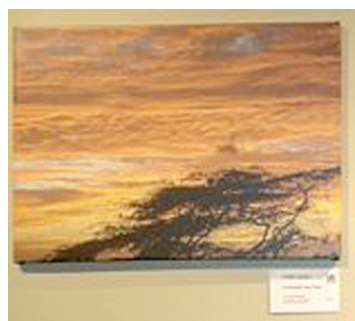
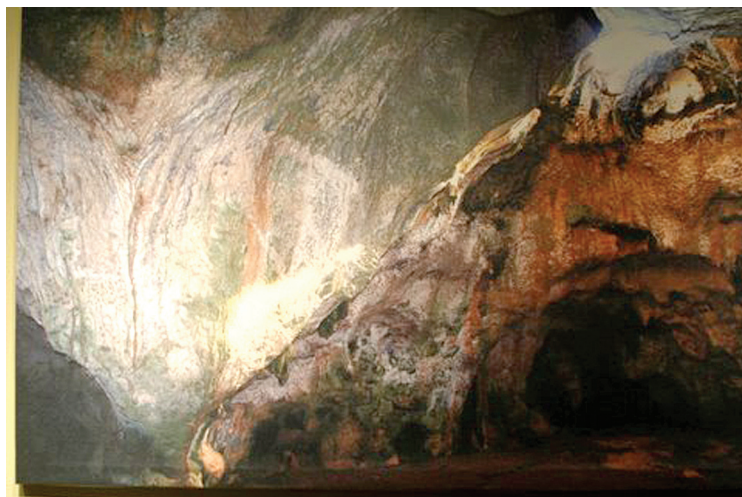
Daily 9 am - 12 am

WEBSITE

WWW.BUGALOE.COM

J. E. Irausquin Blvd 79 at De Palm Pier • Tel: (297) 5862233 • Website: www.bugaloe.com • Email: info@bugaloe.com

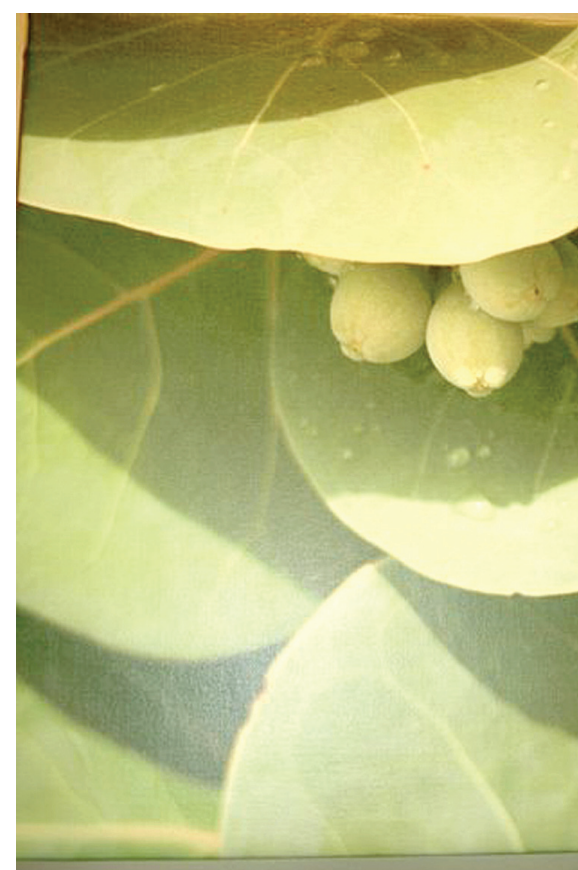
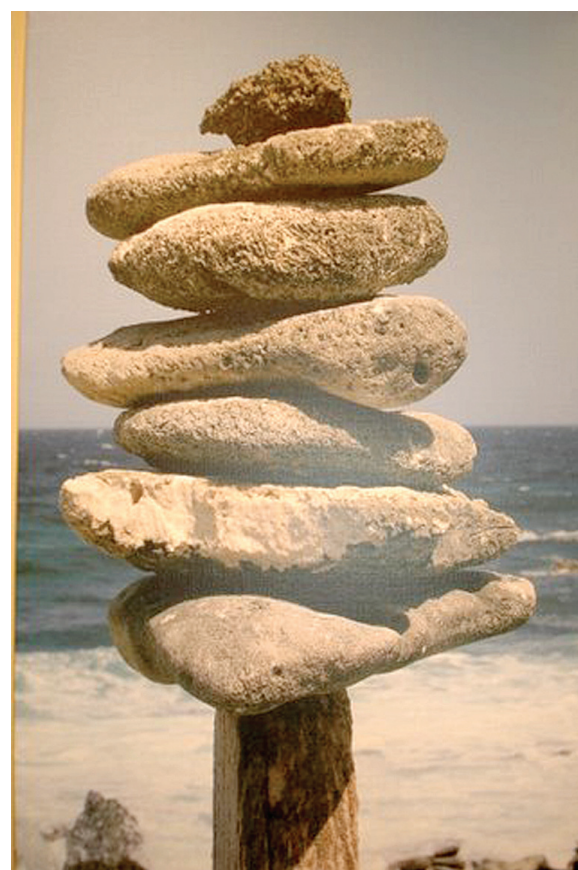
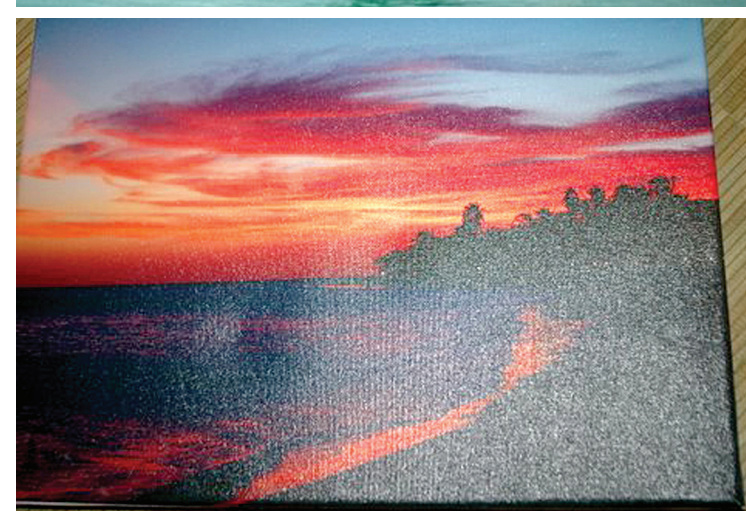
Aruba's nature inspires 3 female artists to capture its beauty



Continued from Front Page

The exhibit will be on view for two months, after which a new exhibit will follow. These wonderful works are the perfect souvenir of Aruba, and they are on sale. There will be a limit of 5 prints that will be sold of each piece, and it takes one to two days to produce and deliver them. They can also be delivered in a cylinder case for easy transport. The artists themselves will be on hand at the gallery Wednesday and Fridays from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

For any information, call 743-4080. Be sure to stop the Westin Resort's beautiful new art gallery to take a look at these fabulous prints. □

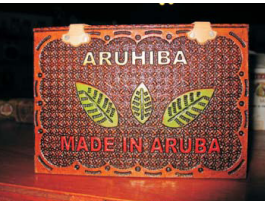


ARUHIBA THE 1 AND ONLY HOMEMADE ARUBAN CIGAR

SOLEDAD 14-A, NOORD • TEL: (297) 593-6177 • arubacigar@hotmail.com

ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba.

Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open on Sunday from 9am to 8pm. And also at Tamarin Hotel open from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



BUY & RECEIVE ONE ARUBAN CIGAR FREE WITH THIS FLYER

The French Steakhouse delivers dining under the stars

Eagle Beach – The French Steakhouse at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa just added another charming dining option, a tropical outdoor courtyard, featuring delicious cuisine under the stars. The famed French Steakhouse prides itself on the elegant dining experience it offers patrons in the fully air-conditioned dining room. Yet recently the idea of adding a garden spot to the existing blueprint began to sprout in the creative mind of Executive Chef George Hoek, and he immediately recruited

the landscapers to create the intimate, lovely setting. The French Steakhouse Ooh-La-La menu is now served indoor and alfresco, featuring creative appetizers, soups, salads, seafood dishes, poultry and the Pièce de Résistance South American & USDA Beef specialties. Among popular appetizers the chef's Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple & mango salsa and the Teriyaki Glazed Seared Duck Breast, served with garden greens and balsamic dressing are real crowd pleasers.



True to the restaurant's French roots, the Onion Soup is a classic, while the Honey Glazed Salmon Salad winks at the exotic East with a sweet soy dressing. The menu features a great variety of seafood dishes from fresh fish to the totally sinful and amazingly-decadent Caribbean Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat and Bacon, which became an instant hit. The tequila and sweet chili glaze, lends the Jumbo shrimp a pure taste of heaven!

The French Steakhouse is naturally famous for the South American Churrasco steak, a signature preparation, which now shares the stage with juicy USDA beef specialties such as NY Sirloin and Filet Mignon. Light-eaters will find the Jerk Chicken Skewers and the Lemon Herb Broilers very satisfying. Open seven days a week from 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. the French Steakhouse is blessed with the nicest staff and a delightfully renovated dining

room with sparkling China, crisp linen, an interesting bread basket, colossal desserts and live jazz on piano with Eddy Samson who is Aruba's best entertainer, and a walking & breathing music encyclopedia, just whistle the tune, and Eddy will produce a symphonic version of your favorite song. Hungry patrons will appreciate the Ambassador's 5-course menu featuring the run of the menu highlights for just \$34.95 per person. www.manchebo.com/steakhouse



Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano introduces Menu Turistico



Eagle Beach -- Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano located at the heart of the low-rise hotels at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, delivers authentic Mediterranean flavors, at a reasonable price. The restaurant has just introduced Menu Turistico a three-course dinner featuring appetizers, main courses and desserts for just \$19.95, per person, plus 15% service charge. Patrons may choose between home made soup and Caesar salad, Fettuccini Alfredo, Lasagna Casarecia, Spaghetti alla Bolognese or any favorite pizza with Tiramisu, Cheese Cake or Ice Cream for the sweet finale. Posing with Angelo the Italian maitre D' at Giorgio's, Mr and Mrs. Klaus, from Pennsylvania, 2nd time repeaters in Aruba at the Manchebo, the trip was a birthday present from him to her and since they are celebrating their 40th anniversary in November, they are already thinking about coming back, they enjoyed Menu Turistico and recommend it wholeheartedly! □

Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar reinvents Beach Cuisine



Eagle Beach – Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa deserves recognition as the home of Beach Cuisine. Executive Chef George Hoek and his culinary team serve a Sun Splashed menu on the ocean front terrace,

raising the bar to a must-visit, must-try status. The contemporary menu, lists many favorite dishes from around the world, borrowing inspiration from US, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek and Mediterranean kitchens, all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair. From Sun-Sational Salads, to Cuban pressed jawbreakers and wraps, mid-day platters also include oversize Beef Burgers, Philly Cheese Steak Sandwiches and Hot Dogs. The Pega Pega tropical &

frozen cocktail list, with fresh fruit or ice cream smoothies, daiquiris, coladas and margaritas, leaves nothing out, including Yellow Birds, Sex on the Beach and Mudslides, making a lunch-time brain-freeze, extremely easy to get! The Pega Pega, one of Aruba's oldest beach bars is open on fabulous Eagle Beach, with unrivaled views, caring, gracious service, and relaxed atmosphere, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The bar opens at 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. □



'Chance of Meatballs' tops weekend box-office

By JAKE COYLE,

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK – The forecast was bright at the box-office for “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs,” which earned \$30.1 million to lead this weekend’s films.

Sony’s 3-D animated family comedy was adapted from the popular 1978 children’s book by Judi and Ron Barrett. Despite schools being back in session, the film still was able to draw kids and their parents to the multiplexes.

“The meatballs have cleared, so to speak,” said Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony. “It really is a feature where everything aligned perfectly.” That’s good news for other adaptations of classic children’s books on the horizon, namely the much anticipated big screen version of Maurice Sendak’s “Where the Wild Things Are.”

The Spike Jonze directed adaptation will be released Oct. 16.

“It really does pave the way for a really strong opening for that film,” said Hollywood.com box-office analyst Paul Dergarabedian. “It’s such a beloved book that the

anticipation is really high.”

He added that the strength of “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs” showed that 3-D is proving to be a significant draw for moviegoers. The film also was released on IMAX at 127 venues, which accounted for \$2.5 million, or 8 percent of its box-office.

Steven Soderbergh’s “The Informant!” came in second with \$10.5 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. That was slightly better than expected for the Warner Bros. comedy, which stars Matt Damon as a bipolar whistle blower.

Last week’s box-office topper, Tyler Perry’s “I Can Do Bad All By Myself,” saw a 57 percent drop for Lionsgate. It still earned \$10 million, good enough for third place. That brought its cumulative total to \$37.9 million.

Jennifer Aniston’s “Love Happens” (Universal) came in fourth with \$8.5 million, suggesting that audiences may be tiring of the actress in romantic comedies. It’s her third film this year.

Coming in a distant fifth was “Jennifer’s Body,” the R-rated horror film written by

Diablo Cody, the scribe of “Juno” fame. It earned just \$6.8 million for 20th Century Fox. “Jennifer’s Body” is viewed most significantly as a test of its star, Megan Fox, to headline a movie.

“You always hope for more, but it’s a modestly budgeted film that will ultimately be profitable for us,” said Chris Aronson, senior vice president of domestic distribution for Fox.

Dergarabedian said the number was somewhat low for what looked like “a fan boy’s dream,” but said the R-rating and niche potential of “Jennifer’s Body” wasn’t ideal for a coming-out party for the actress.

“It may be a matter of just choosing the right projects for her,” said Dergarabedian. “She’s trying to find a world beyond ‘Transformers,’ and she will. She’s young and has a lot of promise.”

On the whole, it was an “up” weekend for Hollywood, said Dergarabedian. The weekend’s total box-office gross was approximately \$100 million, which compares favorably with the \$88 million that was made on the corresponding



In this film publicity image released by Columbia/Sony Pictures Animation, the characters Sam Sparks, voiced by Anna Faris, and Flint Lockwood, voiced by Bill Hader, are shown in a scene from Columbia Pictures’ ‘Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs.’

(AP Photo/Sony Pictures Animation)

weekend last year.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Tuesday.

1. “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs,” \$30.1 million.
2. “The Informant!” \$10.5 million.
3. “I Can Do Bad All By Myself,” \$10 million.

4. “Love Happens,” \$8.5 million.

5. “Jennifer’s Body,” \$6.8 million.

6. “9,” \$5.5 million.

7. “Inglourious Basterds,” \$3.6 million.

8. “All About Steve,” \$3.4 million.

9. “Sorority Row,” \$2.5 million.

10. “The Final Destination,” \$2.4 million. □

“Precious” wins top Toronto film festival prize



Oprah Winfrey and Tyler Perry arrive at the “Precious” film screening during the 34th Toronto International Film Festival, September 13, 2009.

By Cameron French

TORONTO (Reuters)

— “Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire” won the top award at the Toronto International Film Festival Saturday, giving the Oprah Winfrey-produced film some early momentum heading into Oscar awards season.

REUTERS/Mark Blinch

The film, a gritty tale of the abuse and redemption of a teenage girl in Harlem, captured the festival’s People’s Choice award, which is voted on by filmgoers. Last year it went to best picture Oscar winner “Slumdog Millionaire.” Critics have roundly praised “Precious” since its debut at

the Sundance Film Festival in January, and audiences in Toronto warmly received the film, which is directed by Lee Daniels and will hit theaters in November.

“I made this film for every person out there who ever looked in the mirror and felt unsure about the person looking back,” Daniels, who is traveling in Spain, said in a statement read out at an awards reception in Toronto.

In addition to “Slumdog Millionaire,” past winners of the award that have gone on to win the best picture Oscar include “American Beauty” and “Chariots of Fire.”

The festival, which wraps up later Saturday with a red-carpet screening of “The Young Victoria,” a look at the British queen’s early years, was notable this year for a lack of distribution deals signed as the independent film industry remains mired in a near two-year funk. □

John Travolta may testify at Bahamas trial

NASSAU, Bahamas – Actor John Travolta is among the potential witnesses at a Bahamas trial beginning Monday for two people accused of trying to extort \$25 million from the movie star, court officials say.

An ambulance driver and a former Bahamas senator allegedly targeted Travolta after his chronically ill son died in the Bahamas. They are accused of demanding money in exchange for not publicizing a document related to 16-year-old Jett Travolta’s treatment.

Jury selection is scheduled to begin Monday and the actor is on a list of people prosecutors could call to testify, said Bahamas Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez.

The trial in the capital, Nassau, returns the spotlight to the courts in this island chain off the Florida coast that has become familiar with celebrity cases. Last year, a jury inquest found the 2006 death of Anna Nicole Smith’s 20-year-old son Daniel in the Bahamas was the result of an accidental drug overdose.

The Travolta case began when the actor filed an extortion complaint with Bahamas police in January, days after his son died from a seizure at a family vacation home on Grand Bahama island.

Former Sen. Pleasant Bridgewater and paramedic Tarino Lightbourne, who was among those who tried to revive Jett after he collapsed Jan. 2, have pleaded innocent to charges including conspiracy to commit extortion.

The pair allegedly threatened Travolta with a document that would have released emergency responders from liability if the family refused an ambulance. However, police said that did not happen in Jett’s case. It is unclear why the pair allegedly believed Travolta would pay to keep the document from being released.

Both defendants have been free on bail. □

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Stocks' rise hinges on Fed and data



A trader watches market movement on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Federal Reserve policymakers may formally acknowledge an economic recovery is underway but will make few changes to their vast stimulus effort until they see a sustainable expansion, analysts say.

(AFP/Getty Images/File/Spencer Platt)

By Rodrigo Campos

NEW YORK (Reuters) – U.S. stocks could extend their rally and the Dow industrials (.DJI) may climb above 10,000 this week, should the Fed's policy-makers and economic data support the view the economy is recovering from recession. The Federal Open Market Committee will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday, with investors anxiously awaiting the policy-makers' assessment of whether the economy is improving.

The week's key economic data will include U.S. existing home sales, new home sales, a report on new orders of durable goods such as washing machines and refrigerators, and a final reading for September on consumer sentiment -- all likely to put the expectations for recovery to the test.

A raft of initial public offerings are also expected to price, making it the biggest week for initial public offerings in the United States in nearly two years in a sign of growing confidence in the market.

The Standard & Poor's 500 Index (.SPX) has staged a six-month climb from a 12-year closing low, rising 58 percent. The rally has fed on expectations of a rebound from recession coupled with cheap money that has flooded roughly every market.

"The market has obviously had a nice run with a combination of hopes for second-half recovery and a very easy Fed policy," said Peter Boockvar, an equity strategist at Miller Tabak & Co in New York.

The Fed is expected to acknowledge a batch of recent economic data pointing to

a fledgling recovery. The FOMC's policy statement, due about 2:15 p.m. EDT on Wednesday at the end of the two-day meeting, will come about a week after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's comments that the U.S. recession was "very likely" over.

But Bernanke also said the recovery would be slow and it would take time to create new jobs. "We're seeing investors that were really direly pessimistic move the meter to slightly more optimistic, and that is confirmed with each little piece of economic data," said Fred Dickson, market strategist at D.A. Davidson & Co in Lake Oswego, Oregon. That optimism has translated into an extension of the rally in stocks. For the week, the Dow rose 2.24 percent, capping its best week in two months. The Standard & Poor's 500 index (.SPX) gained 2.45 percent and the Nasdaq added (.IXIC) 2.50 percent.

Investors are wondering whether interest rates will remain at record lows for a period of time and whether the economic recovery will remain on track.

"We get both those questions answered partially (this) week," Boockvar said, referring to the FOMC meeting and key data including the index of leading U.S. economic indicators and durable goods.

STEADY FED

Central banks around the world

have begun debating how, and more importantly when, to phase out the emergency steps taken to contain the worst global financial crisis in decades. Most are not expected to do so until well into 2010. The Fed has "already announced they're going to halt the purchases of Treasuries," Boockvar said. "The real exit strategy is (normalizing) the Fed funds rate, and they are not close to doing that."

A Reuters poll released on Wednesday showed economists expect the Fed to hold rates steady until the third quarter of next year. It also showed expectations the U.S. economy will make a more robust recovery from recession than expected a month ago.

The market is expecting a very sharp rebound from the recession, said John Praveen, chief investment strategist at Prudential International Investments Advisers LLC in Newark, New Jersey. He said people will closely watch the Fed's take on what comes for the economy after the rebound.

The Fed's and other central banks' strategies also will be part of the discussion during a two-day G20 summit in Pittsburgh, starting Thursday. Bankers' pay and other financial regulations will also be examined.

DURABLE GOODS IN SPOTLIGHT

On the macro front, the main

event is set for Friday with the release of August durable goods orders, forecast to rise 0.5 percent, according to economists polled by Reuters. "The new orders component of the ISM survey has been very strong," Prudential International's Praveen said. "People are looking for validation (of the improved sentiment) in the durable goods data."

Sales of existing or used homes, due on Thursday, are expected to show a rise to an annual rate of 5.35 million units in August, from July's rate of 5.24 million, according to the Reuters poll. New home sales for August, due on Friday, are expected to increase to an annual rate of about 440,000 from July's rate of 433,000.

Stronger home sales will be viewed as an expected continuation of the improvement in the housing market, Praveen said.

On Monday, the Conference Board, a private research group based in New York, will release its index of leading indicators for August at 10 a.m. EDT (1400 GMT). Economists polled by Reuters expect a 0.7 percent increase, compared with a previous gain of 0.6 percent.

IPOS AS QUARTER WINDS DOWN

On the IPO front, there are eight deals on deck, which are expected to raise \$3.5 billion. That would increase 2009's total so far by 66.1 percent. □

Sacked Irish computer workers to get massive EU aid

BRUSSELS (AFP) – The European Commission announced Saturday aid of 14.8 million euros (24.75 million dollars) for 2,400 workers left jobless by the closure of a US computer factory in western Ireland.

The announcement was made as Commission chief Jose Manuel Barroso was visiting Limerick, and two weeks before Ireland votes again on whether to accept the EU's Lisbon Treaty.

"The economic crisis is affecting all European countries but Limerick and the surrounding areas have been hit hard by job losses at the local Dell plant and its suppliers," it quoted Barroso as saying.

"The EU is built on solidarity. Our natural response is to come to the aid of those who are experiencing difficulties and to take decisive action to tackle the jobs impact of the crisis," he said.

The cash is aimed at helping the redundant workers find new jobs in the wake of the closure of the Limerick plant, which had made Dell Ireland's leading exporter, as the global crisis shattered the Celtic Tiger economy.

The aid under the European Globalisation Adjustment

Fund, which was set up to help workers hit by the world economic crisis, still has to be approved by the European parliament and the bloc's 27 member states.

Ireland votes in a referendum on October 2 on the Lisbon Treaty, which is designed to improve decision-making in a greatly expanded EU.

In a referendum in June last year the country -- which is constitutionally bound to put the treaty to a public vote -- sent shockwaves through the EU when it rejected the pact by 53.4 percent.

Latest opinion polls suggest the new referendum, following adjustments to the treaty, will return a yes vote, influenced in particular by the economic crisis which has hit Ireland harder than most.

In an interview with the Irish Times published Saturday Barroso said there were doubts about the future situation of Ireland. "Some people have asked me: is Ireland going to leave the EU?" he said.

"For investor confidence, it is important that there is certainty about the future of Ireland in the EU."

Barroso also said that if the Lisbon Treaty, which requires unanimous ratification, was rejected the number of



People queue outside the Social Welfare office in Limerick, central Ireland in March 2009. The European Commission announced Saturday aid of 14.8 million euros (24.75 million dollars) for 2,400 workers left jobless by the closure of a US computer factory in western Ireland.

(AFP/File/Peter Muhly)

European commissioners "The only way to ensure that commissioner is to vote Yes to would have to be reduced. Ireland will always have a Lisbon," he said. □



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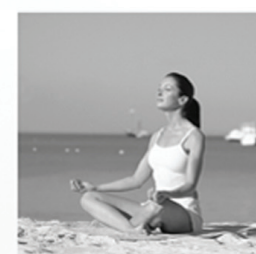
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FINALLY, A HEALTH CARE BILL TO TALK ABOUT

By Cynthia Tucker

Cheers for Sen. Max Baucus, the Montana Democrat who spent months keeping his "Gang of Six" together, negotiating with Republican senators over health care reform, no matter how insincere, cowardly or irritating they were. Even when Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, caved in to the lie about "death panels," giving it credence in a town hall forum, Baucus, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, kept Grassley and the others at the table. The result is a health care reform bill that is hardly perfect -- it needs several refinements -- but which can jump-start the debate over final legislation among Democrats in the House and Senate. And, after a long summer of circuses and freak shows, Democrats are the only members whose views ought to matter. Republicans have taken themselves out of negotiations, choosing to sell their souls to the unhinged fringe led by Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh. For all of Baucus' efforts to compromise with his GOP colleagues, not a single one of the three Republicans in the Gang of Six stood with him Wednesday when he announced his plan. Even the usually thoughtful Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, has, for the moment, caved in to intense pressure from her party not to help the passage of health care reform.

But therein lies the brilliance of the Baucus strategy: There cannot be a doubt in the reality-based universe that the Obama administration and Senate Democrats reached out in the spirit of bipartisan compromise but found their outreach greeted with incoming mortar rounds. Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., revealed the GOP strategy in July, when he said that killing health care would be President Obama's "Waterloo. It will break him."

Never mind the millions of Americans who desperately need a health care system that doesn't bankrupt them but actually provides treatment when they get sick: All that the GOP is interested in is ruining Obama's presidency.

Because Baucus was keen to compromise with fiscal conservatives, including many in his own party, his bill would meet the president's test of fiscal responsibility: It does not "add one dime" to the deficit. Indeed, it goes further. The widely respected, nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says the Baucus proposal is likely to cut the deficit by nearly \$50 billion over the next decade and even more after that. Still, there are problems aplenty with the stingy approach, as Sen. John Rockefeller, D-W. Va., and other Democrats made clear. For one thing, it still leaves health care unaffordable for many, even though they will be (rightfully) forced to purchase it. That's especially true for low-earning younger adults.

About 10 million Americans between the ages of 19 and 26 lack health insurance, according to the Urban Institute. Some simply don't purchase it because they're young and healthy and feel invincible. □

*** Human Hints Daily ***

It Starts With Self-Worth

Lets talk today about self-worth. Since the three dimensional world only reflects what we think of ourselves, self-worth is the necessary foundation to accept abundance, prosperity and wealth into your life. If you do not value yourself, others will not respect you, and life will reinforce your beliefs that your time, thoughts and energy are worthless.

Lack of self-worth will undermine your efforts, and make you doubt your ability. When you don't realize your own value, you become immersed in the vibrational frequency of being powerless. Life will confirm your beliefs about yourself. That is why you must feel wealthy and prosperous in order to become wealthy and prosperous. Whether you feel worthless or abundant, life will validate your feelings.

Every Human has specific, unique, irreplaceable value to those in their lives and to the Mass Human Consciousness.

We usually don't realize the impact we have on other's lives, but we all effect each other, for better or worse.

Every one of us has knowledge and skills that are valuable to others. It is absolutely imperative that we recognize the value of the contribution we each have to offer.

We must separate ourselves from those who would suppress us. People who want to maintain control over you might bombard you with the message that you're worthless. The message may be as subtle as it is powerful, or it may be disguised as a joke, but the result is the same when our self-worth is attacked.

When you begin to value yourself and what you offer, people will see a change in you, so be ready for a reaction from them. Those who seek to control you will feel threatened, and will attack your newfound self-assured aura. People will also become attracted to your new energy, and will change the way they interact with you.

To find direction based on your self worth, start by making two separate lists, one of your strengths and one of your interests, things that excite you. Make two lists of at least five simple words or phrases. Now mix your strengths and interests into different combinations, and choose the top 5 phrases or sentences that excite you the most.

Your five phrases will give your life purpose and direction. They show you how to express your natural strengths with excitement, in order to gain a sense of self-worth. Striving toward a specific goal will give you confidence, direction, and focus. You will then no longer be reliant on others, and you will no longer play the victim to insecure, controlling energies.

Recognize your self-worth by focusing on your unique value.

Make a separate list of the ways you help the people in your life on a daily basis. Become aware of the good things you bring to the world and to the people you know. Think of how their lives would be more difficult and complicated without you. Then, in your daily life, recognize when you naturally help people. Be aware of the energy you express, and know that you make a difference.

Self-worth is a necessary foundation for creating your own reality. Becoming aware of your value will give you the wisdom to see a new direction and the courage to follow it, regardless of your present surroundings or life situation.

The power to change starts with valuing your self.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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***“Courage is not the absence of fear,
but rather the judgement that
something else is more important
than fear.”***

- Ambrose Redmoon -



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tributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens

with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax. Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclusive to the owners.

Construction on Oasis at Eagle

Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer. The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

The site tour will take you up in the complex where you will enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and beach as well as a wonderful view of Oranjestad where the cruise ships are docked. The views from the rooftop terrace are stunning to say the least. The Oasis sales team is ready to assist you.

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Pandas to return to famous China reserve in 2012



A panda cub plays at the Giant Panda Breeding Centre in Chengdu in Sichuan province. Sixty of the creatures who were transferred to zoos around China after last year's devastating earthquake in the region destroyed their home are set to return in 2012, state media reported.

(AFP/File/Peter Parks)

BEIJING — Sixty pandas relocated last year from a famous Chinese nature reserve after their breeding center was severely damaged by a massive earthquake will return home after repairs in 2012. The panda breeding center in the Wolong nature reserve in southwest China's Sichuan

province is undergoing a 379 million yuan (\$55 million) reconstruction expected to be completed by 2011, the official Xinhua News Agency said late Saturday. The Wolong reserve's location in a damp, narrow valley several hours from Chengdu, the Sichuan capital, made it

vulnerable during the 7.9-magnitude quake, which sent boulders the size of cars crashing down, destroying enclosures and administrative buildings. The May 12, 2008, quake left nearly 90,000 people dead or missing, including 12 staffers at the panda center. The center had 63 pandas before the quake, but one died, another went missing and a third died of illness, Xinhua said, citing Luo Zengbin, deputy head of the provincial forestry department. The surviving pandas have been moved to zoos elsewhere in China, with most sent to the Bifengxia panda base in the city of Ya'an. About 1,590 pandas are living in the wild, mostly in Sichuan and the western province of Shaanxi. An additional 180 have been bred in captivity. Wolong is part of efforts to breed giant pandas in hopes of increasing the species' chances of survival. □



Tourists view the Three Gorges Dam in central China's Hubei province. China's hydropower capacity is expected to nearly double to 300,000 megawatts by 2020, state media said, as the nation powers ahead with the development of renewable energy sources.

(AFP/File/Frederic J. Brown)

China hydropower to near double by 2020: state media

BEIJING (AFP) — China's hydropower capacity is expected to nearly double to 300,000 megawatts by 2020, state media said, as the nation powers ahead with the development of renewable energy sources.

Water resources minister Chen Lei, who was quoted by the official Xinhua news agency as giving the target, also said hydropower would play a more important role in China's strategy for energy security in the future.

By the end of 2008, the nation's installed capacity of hydropower was 172,000 megawatts -- the largest in the world -- Chen said according to the report late on Saturday. □



Terrorism suspect Najibullah Zazi is arrested by FBI agents in Aurora, Colo., on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009.

Associated Press

FBI: Notes on bomb-making in suspect's handwriting

P. SOLOMON BANDA
STEVEN K. PAULSON
Associated Press Writer

DENVER (AP) — Investigators said they found notes describing how to make bombs in the handwriting of an airport shuttle driver arrested as part of a terrorism investigation, and they also discovered his fingerprints on materials — batteries and a scale — that could be used to make explosives.

The emerging details show that Najibullah Zazi, who has admitted receiving weapons training from al-Qaida, played a direct role in an alleged terror plot, authorities said in court documents released Sunday.

Zazi, 24, has publicly denied being involved in a terror plot. Zazi, his father, and an imam in New York City were arrested late Saturday on charges of making a false statement to the government, though legal experts say more charges could be coming.

Zazi's defense team denied reports that Zazi considered a plea deal related to terror charges, and Zazi's attorney, Arthur Folsom, dismissed as "rumor" any notion that Zazi played a crucial role. Zazi's defense team did not respond to repeated attempts to reach them Sunday.

Federal officials in Denver declined to comment. Zazi admitted to FBI agents that he received instructions from al-Qaida operatives on subjects such as weapons and explosives.

Court documents filed in Denver say Zazi was speaking with agents under an agreement through which he might avoid prosecution.

He received the training in the federally administered tribal areas of Pakistan, the documents say.

The FBI said it found images of nine pages of handwritten notes on a laptop containing formulas and instructions for making bombs, detonators and a fuse.

Zazi told the FBI that he must have unintentionally downloaded the notes as part of a religious book he downloaded in August. Zazi said he "immediately deleted the religious book within days of downloading it after realizing that its contents discussed jihad."

However, an arrest affidavit says the handwriting on the notes appeared to be Zazi's. The affidavit doesn't mention that they were part of a book, but that they were e-mailed as an attachment between accounts believed owned by Zazi in December, including an account that originated in Pakistan. "It appeared to be consistent with the handwriting as it appeared in the document," an FBI agent wrote of comparisons of Zazi's handwriting with the notes.

In addition, agents found Zazi's fingerprints on a scale and double-A batteries seized during a raid at a home in the New York City borough of Queens on Sept. 14.

Continued on Page B3

Insane killer caught after fleeing during trip

TIM KLASS

Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — An insane killer who slipped away from the staff of a mental institution on a field trip to the Spokane County International Fair was recaptured Sunday without injury more than 180 miles (290 kilometers) away in south-central Washington state.

With a helicopter overhead and dozens of federal, state and local law enforcement officers swarming around Goldendale, Phillip Arnold Paul, 47, seemed ready to surrender when he walked out to the Goldendale-Bickleton road about 22 miles east of town shortly after 4 p.m., just as search personnel arrived at the scene, Klickitat County Sheriff Rick McComas told The Associated Press.

Spokane County sheriff's Capt. Dave Reagan said Paul



This image provided by the Spokane County Sheriff's Office shows 47-year-old Phillip Arnold Paul. Phillip Arnold Paul, a killer committed to a mental institution has escaped during a field trip to the Spokane County Interstate Fair, in Spokane, Wash.

Associated Press

was preparing to hitchhike. But McComas said Paul offered no resistance as he turned himself in.

Continued on Page B5



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad speaks in front of pictures of the late revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini, left, and supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, right, before Friday prayers at the Tehran University campus in Tehran, Iran, Friday, Sept. 18, 2009. Ahmadinejad lashed out at Israel and the West saying Friday the Holocaust was a lie and a pretext for occupying Palestinian lands.

Associated Press

Iran's leader says U.S. nuke accusations wrong

NASSER KARIMI

Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's supreme leader said Sunday that U.S. officials know they are wrongly accusing Iran of seeking to develop nuclear weapons.

Continued on Page B6

Obama favors investigation into ACORN scandal



Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., second from right, accompanied by, from left, House Minority Leader John Boehner of Ohio, Rep. Lynn Westmoreland, R-Ga., and Rep. Parick McHenry, R-N.C., speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009, to discuss the House bill that passed which would ban federal funding for ACORN.

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama says there should be an investigation into the hidden-camera video involving employees at the activist group ACORN and a couple posing as a prostitute

and her pimp.

The two ACORN workers are seen apparently advising the couple to lie about her profession and launder her earnings to get housing aid.

The video is only the latest

problem for the group, which had nearly \$1 million embezzled by its founder's brother and has been accused of voter registration fraud. The House and Senate voted last week to deny federal funds to

Associated Press

ACORN.

Obama told ABC's "This Week" in an interview broadcast Sunday that what he saw on the video "was certainly inappropriate and deserves to be investigated." But the president did not say who should investigate. And he said it is not a major national issue he pays much attention to. "Frankly, it's not really something I've followed closely," Obama said. "I didn't even know that ACORN was getting a whole lot of federal money."

Asked about the president calling for an investigation, ACORN chief executive Bertha Lewis said Sunday, "Well, that's his opinion." ACORN said last week it would order its own investigation of the video scandal. Lewis, who had promised to name an independent auditor by Friday, told "Fox News Sunday" that the announcement would take place Monday. She would not reveal the auditor.

Later Sunday, Lewis issued a statement saying, "We agree with President Obama's

comments today that issues raised by the videos need to be investigated."

In the meantime, the group has suspended the admission of new clients to its housing program.

"Over the next several weeks, you will see us working triple time to get this review right so that we can refocus attention on ACORN's critical work for low- and moderate-income families," Lewis said in the statement.

The government is investigating ACORN's activities, though the scope of its activity is unknown. Voter registration fraud cases involving ACORN workers are pending. The Housing and Urban Development Department's inspector general has acknowledged an investigation is under way.

ACORN — short for the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now — started in 1970 in Arkansas to help the poor and today is a national, multimillion-dollar conglomerate. ACORN's political action committee endorsed Obama for president, and his campaign paid an ACORN subsidiary \$832,000 to help get out the vote.

Obama, himself a former community organizer, has long-standing ties to the group, which he represented in 1995 in a lawsuit against the state of Illinois over the "motor-voter" law.

The group's Democratic leanings and political work have made it a target of Republicans, who led the drive last week to deny it any further federal funds.

California Republican Rep. Darrell Issa, a member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, pressed Lewis to reveal more about the group's operations.

"The bottom line is, there's no transparency in ACORN," said Issa, who also was on Fox. "Here we have literally hundreds of organizations tied under the ACORN umbrella, and you can't even find out what their incorporation is, whether they pay taxes, who makes what," Issa said. □

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BOMB MAKING

Continued from Page B1

Zazi, who lives in the Denver suburb of Aurora, underwent three days of questioning by the FBI before his arrest.

Also arrested were his father, Mohammed Wali Zazi, 53, in Denver; and an associate, Ahmad Wais Afzali, 37, of New York City, the Justice Department said Sunday. Both also were charged with making false statements to federal agents, which carries a penalty of eight years in prison. Court appearances for all three were set for Monday. Both Mohammed Zazi and Afzali face charges for allegedly lying to FBI agents about calls between Denver and New York. While prosecutors are seeking to detain Najibullah Zazi, prosecutors say they're not seeking detention for Mohammed Zazi, his father.

It was unclear from court documents whether officials would seek to detain Afzali, an imam at a mosque in Queens who has worked as an informant for New York police.

Crews of journalists clustered outside Afzali's home in Queens. No one answered the doorbell at the three-story brick residence, adorned with brightly colored flower boxes.

Carl Tobias, a law professor at the University of Richmond who has been tracking terrorist investigations around the country, said authorities could have made the arrests now because they feared too much information was getting out to the suspects. Additional charges could be filed later, he

said.

FBI agents say Najibullah Zazi traveled to Pakistan twice this year on Jan. 15 and most recently on Aug. 28. Zazi says he was visiting his wife, who lives in the Peshawar region. The investigation escalated after Zazi rented a car and drove from Denver to New York, crossing into Manhattan on Sept. 10. Zazi said he went to New York to resolve some issues with a coffee cart he owns in Manhattan, then flew home to Denver. The FBI searched Zazi's rental car and laptop during the New York trip and listened in on telephone conversations, according to the affidavits. On Monday, FBI agents and police officers with search warrants seeking bomb materials searched three apartments and questioned residents in the Queens neighborhood where Zazi stayed.

An arrest warrant affidavit

says FBI agents intercepted a phone conversation around Sept. 11 in which Afzali, a legal permanent resident from Afghanistan, told Zazi that he had spoken with authorities. "I was exposed to something yesterday from the authorities. And they came to ask me about your characters (sic). They asked me about you guys," Afzali told Zazi, according to the affidavit.

However, Afzali allegedly lied to authorities about that conversation when federal agents asked him about it Thursday, according to the affidavit. The department says Mohammed Zazi, a naturalized U.S. citizen who was interviewed last week by the FBI, lied when asked if he knew anyone by the name of Afzali and said he didn't. The FBI said it had wiretapped a conversation between Mohammed Zazi and Afzali during Najibullah Zazi's visit to New York.



Mohammed Zazi, father of a man suspected of a link to terrorists leaves the Federal Building in Denver, is arrested by FBI agents in Aurora, Colo., late Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009.

Associated Press

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Obama: Health insurance mandate no tax increase

By BEN FELLER,
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON

President Barack Obama says requiring people to get health insurance and fining them if they don't would not amount to a backhanded tax increase.

"I absolutely reject that notion," the president said. Blanketing most of the Sunday TV news shows, Obama defended his proposed health care overhaul, including a key point of the various health care bills on Capitol Hill: mandating that people get health insurance to share the cost burden fairly among all. Those who failed to get coverage would face financial penalties.

Obama said other elements of the plan would make insurance affordable for people, from a new comparison-shopping "exchange" to tax credits. Telling people to get health insurance is absolutely not a tax increase, Obama told ABC's "This Week."

"What it's saying is, is that we're not going to have other people carrying your burdens for you anymore," said Obama. "Right now everybody in America, just about, has to get auto insurance. Nobody considers that a tax



President Barack Obama speaks at a rally on health care reform, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009, at the Comcast Center at the University of Maryland in College Park, Md.

Associated Press

increase."

Obama faces an enormous political and communications challenge in selling his health care plan as Congress debates how to pay for it all. He told CBS' "Face the Nation" that he will keep his pledge not to raise taxes on families earning up to \$250,000, and that much of the final bill — hundreds of billions of dollars over the next 10 years — can be achieved from savings within the current system. Coming up with the rest remains a key legislative obstacle.

Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele said there is no way Obama can achieve his goals without raising taxes.

"He has to. How else do you pay for it?" he told CBS.

Obama put his support behind the idea of taxing employers that offer high-cost insurance plans.

"I do think that giving a disincentive to insurance companies to offer Cadillac plans that don't make people healthier is part of the way that we're going to bring down health care costs for everybody over the long term," Obama said on

NBC's "Meet the Press." Obama's network interviews were taped Friday at the White House. He became the first president to appear on five Sunday network shows in the same morning, an extraordinary effort to build public support for his top domestic priority.

The goal is to expand and improve health insurance coverage and rein in long-term costs.

Yet despite so many weeks of speeches, town halls and interviews, Obama said he has found it difficult at times to make a complex topic clear and relevant.

"I've tried to keep it

digestible," Obama said. "It's very hard for people to get their arms around it. And that's been a case where I have been humbled and I just keep on trying harder."

Obama told Univision's "Al Punto" ("To the Point") that the strong opposition to his plan is part of a political strategy.

"Well, part of it is ... that the opposition has made a decision," he said. "They are just not going to support anything, for political reasons."

Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said Obama doesn't understand Republicans' opposition.

"I don't know anybody in my Republican conference in the Senate who's in favor of doing nothing on health care," McConnell said. "We obviously have a cost problem and we have an access problem."

But he told CNN's "State of the Union" that the Democrats' plan is simply too rushed.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said Obama has ignored grave concerns over his plan and his media blitz won't change that.

"The president is selling something that people, quite frankly, are not buying," Graham told NBC's "Meet the Press."

"He's been on everything but the Food Channel," he added. □

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INSANE KILLER

Continued from page B1

“He came out of the brush, onto the roadway, as law enforcement officers were going by,” McComas said. “His intent was to voluntarily give himself up because he knew we were going to find him.”

The sheriff said he didn’t know how Paul reached the area, adding the information that he might be nearby came from authorities in Spokane. Authorities have offered no clues as to what Paul was doing in the Goldendale area or where he may have been headed.

Reagan said the arrest was made by Spokane County sheriff’s detective Roger W. Knight, who also nabbed Paul after he gave Eastern State Hospital personnel the slip during a field trip in Medical Lake, where the mental institution is located, in 1991. Following that arrest, Paul knocked Knight unconscious in the jail booking area, separating his shoulder, and was convicted of first-degree escape and second-degree assault.

McComas said Paul would be taken to Yakima following a brief checkup by medics in Goldendale.

Earlier in the day, 50 to 60 federal, state and Spokane-area law enforcement personnel were shifted from the Spokane area in eastern Washington to Goldendale, southeast of Seattle and southwest of Spokane.

Reagan wouldn’t specify what led to the shift, which occurred on the third day after Paul’s escape. It remained unclear whether Paul met up with anyone after his getaway Thursday morning. Until Sunday, authorities said they believed Paul would head for his family home in Sunnyside, east of Goldendale and southwest of Spokane. But Reagan said investigators have had no indication that Paul passed through Sunnyside.

Paul left little clothing in his room, just some underwear and socks, and was carrying a backpack and \$50 from a Social Security check when he vanished. The field trip to the fair, which included 30 other patients, is an annual event that Paul easily could have anticipated, Reagan said.

Paul was committed after he was diagnosed as schizophrenic and acquitted by reason of insanity in the slaying of an elderly woman in Sunnyside in 1987. He soaked her body in gasoline to throw off search dogs.

Jim Stevenson, a spokesman for the state Department of Social and Health Services, said Paul received an injection designed to maintain his mental stability for about two weeks on Wednesday. Only at the end of that period would he need another dose to avoid the potential for a serious deterioration of his mental condition, Stevenson said. On Saturday Reagan told The Spokesman-Review newspaper that investigators learned Paul had several contacts in the Spokane area after living outside the hospital complex periodically, including stays at The Carlyle Care Center in downtown Spokane. □



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Five children, woman found dead in Florida

NAPLES, Florida (AP) — Five young children and their mother were found dead in a Florida apartment, and authorities were searching Sunday for the woman’s husband, who had left the country.

Mesac Damas, 33, boarded a flight to Haiti from Miami International Airport on Friday, said Collier County Sheriff’s Office spokeswoman Michelle Batten. Damas has family from Haiti, she said. Sheriff’s officials said they want to talk to Damas, who is a person of interest.

Haitian police spokesman Frantz Lerebours could not immediately be reached for comment. A message was also left with the FBI.

The victims were identified as Guerline Damas, 32, and her children: Michzach, 9; Marvin, 6; Maven, 5; Megan, 3; and 11-month-old Morgan. Batten would not say how they died.

Family members contacted



authorities Thursday saying they had not heard from the mother. A missing person report was filed the next day, and on Saturday, the sheriff’s office entered the home in a gated community in Naples and found the bodies, Batten said. Sheriff Rambosk called the homicides “the worst of the worst.” Damas left Miller’s Ale House in Naples, where he worked as a cook, Thursday night. He

arrived at the Miami airport Friday morning and boarded a flight to Haiti, the sheriff’s office said. His car was found at the airport and had been secured by investigators who are checking it for evidence. The man’s father, Jean Damas Sr., told the Naples Daily News that his son had called his brother from Haiti. Damas Sr. also said his son and his wife have had domestic problems. □



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This Monday, July 20, 2009 file photo released by an official website of the Iranian Supreme Leader's office, shows Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, right, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, 3rd left, judiciary chief Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi, 2nd left, and parliament speaker Ali Larijani, far left, sitting under a portrait of the late revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini, during a meeting in Tehran, Iran. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad doesn't have to look to the street protests to get a sense of challenges ahead for his disputed second term, there's enough potential heat from right inside the country's leadership, and these days that trouble has a name: the brothers Larijani.

Associated Press

NUKE ACCUSATIONS

Continued from Page B1

In Iran's first official reaction to the U.S. decision to scrap a European missile intercept system to defend against threats from Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei claimed President Barack Obama's administration is following the same policies as its predecessor.

"The U.S. officials who talk about Iranian missiles and their danger while saying Iran intends to build a nuclear bomb, they know these words are wrong," Khamenei said in remarks broadcast on state-run radio. "Despite its apparent friendly messages and words" the Obama administration is pursuing the same policy of Iran-phobia, he said.

The U.S. administration has invited Iran to start a dialogue on its nuclear program and gave a vague September deadline for Tehran to take up the offer. The U.S. and five other world powers accepted an offer from Iran earlier this month to hold "comprehensive, all-encompassing and constructive" talks on a range of security issues, including global nuclear disarmament.

European Union foreign

policy chief Javier Solana will meet Iran's nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili on Oct. 1 for talks on Iran's nuclear program. Iran has long maintained the program is purely for peaceful purposes and Khamenei reiterated that Iran considers the production and use of nuclear arms forbidden by the country's Muslim beliefs.

The Obama administration announced earlier this month it was scrapping a Bush-era plan for a missile defense system based in Poland and the Czech Republic. Former President George W. Bush contended the system was needed to shoot down any Iranian missile if Tehran ever developed one with adequate range to threaten the United States or Europe.

U.S. officials have said the decision was based largely on a new U.S. intelligence assessment that Iran's effort to build a nuclear-capable long-range missile would take three years to five years longer than originally thought. The scrapped plan will be replaced by a new one initially geared more to the threat of short- and medium-range missiles from Iran. Khamenei also addressed Iran's domestic political

crisis, warning government supporters against accusing opposition members of wrongdoing without proof. It was the latest indication that the Islamic government may be easing up on critics of the June presidential election.

In a speech marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, Khamenei appeared to be working to iron out tensions that have created the country's biggest domestic political crisis since the 1979 Islamic Revolution — the fallout from the disputed June 12 election in which President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won re-election in a race critics say was marred by widespread fraud.

Amid mass trials of supporters of reformist presidential candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi, as well as claims of abuse, coerced confessions and intimidation by security forces targeting the opposition, Khamenei said while a suspect's own confession was admissible, his testimony or accusations could not be used to implicate others in the unrest.

"We do not have the right to accuse without any proof," Khamenei said, urging the judiciary and security forces to pursue offenders within the bounds of the law. The speech was carried live on Iran's state radio and television.

"What a suspect says in court against a third party has no legitimate validity," he said. Khamenei did not single out any individuals, but his remarks appeared to refer to testimony by some detainees who maintain that former President Hashemi Rafsanjani and other reformists supported Mousavi to weaken Khamenei.

Rafsanjani — who has been absent from several recent official ceremonies, including a Friday prayer led by the supreme leader earlier in September — was seen sitting in the first row of worshippers during the prayer ceremony at which Khamenei spoke.

Khamenei has been a staunch supporter of Ahmadinejad, support that has further angered critics and opened up a wide rift between the country's influential clerics — reformists on one side, hard-liners on the other. □



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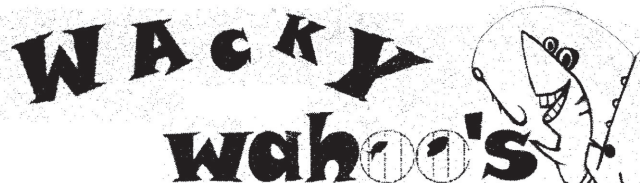
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Two people die in poisoning at German therapy group

ANDREA BACKHAUS
Associated Press Writer

BERLIN (AP) — A doctor leading a group therapy session gave participants drugs and other substances that killed two and left 10 hospitalized, Berlin police said Sunday. One person was left comatose and in critical condition.

The doctor who led the session has acknowledged giving the participants various substances and drugs during the meeting, Martin Steltner, a spokesman for the Berlin prosecutor's office, told The Associated Press on Sunday. It was not clear whether illegal drugs were given and whether the substances were injected or taken orally.

A police statement said autopsies have been carried out on the two dead people but "the chemical-toxicological investigation will take a while." Police said the session took place in a house and medical practice in the leafy Hermsdorf neighborhood in the north of Berlin. The 50-year-old doctor who

worked there was detained and a homicide division was investigating the case, police said.

The doctor, his 41-year-old wife, who runs a practice for alternative medicine in the same building, and 12 other people attended the session Saturday, according to a police statement.

"During the session, which lasted several hours, he supposedly gave the patients various kinds of substances and drugs that initially led to reactions like nausea and vomiting," the statement said.

When the symptoms got worse, one of the participants called emergency services, according to the statement. When police and ambulance cars arrived at the practice, they found twelve people who appeared to have been severely poisoned, it said. A 59-year-old man died at the scene and a 28-year-old man died that night in the hospital, police said.

On Sunday afternoon, nine other people were released from the hospital. One patient was still in critical



Exterior view of the house of a psychotherapist in Berlin, Germany, Sept. 20, 2009. Two people died and 10 others were hospitalized after being poisoned while taking part in a group therapy session in Berlin, German police said Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009. One person is in critical condition in a coma.

Associated Press

condition. On the Internet, the doctor identifies himself as a psychotherapist for

individuals and groups. He specializes in "depth crises," according to the psychology, bodywork and Web site. □



Black Hawk crash kills US service member in Iraq

By DAVID RISING

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD — A Black Hawk helicopter crashed at a major American air base in Iraq, killing one U.S. service member and injuring 12 others, the military said Sunday.

The UH-60 Black Hawk went down Saturday night at the Balad Air Base, about 50 miles north of Baghdad, the military said in a statement.

The military said the cause of the crash was under investigation and gave no other details.

The helicopter went down on a night of high winds that tore through the area, whipping up a fierce sandstorm that was followed by thunder, lightning and rain.

The name and other details



A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter is seen between the blades of a Chinook CH-47 helicopter at an air base in Afghanistan Monday, Sept. 7, 2009.

Associated Press

about the service member killed were being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

The Black Hawk is the military's mainstay tactical transport helicopter, replacing the UH-1 Huey. It is designed to carry up to four crew members and a fully equipped infantry squad of 11, but it was not clear how many people were aboard the aircraft that crashed Saturday.

With Saturday's death, at least 4,345 members of the U.S. military have died in

the Iraq war since it began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

It was not clear what mission the Black Hawk was on when it went down, but the U.S. military relies heavily on helicopters to ferry troops, dignitaries and supplies to avoid the threat of ambushes and roadside bombs.

The Balad Air Base was originally a Saddam-era airfield. It was seized by American forces in the early days of the 2003 invasion and has since grown to be one of

the largest in Iraq.

It is now home to more than 20,000 U.S. forces and provides air power, logistics and counterterrorism support, as well as training for Iraqi security forces. Its location offers a good vantage point for intelligence gathering across the entire north and specific areas such as the Iranian border.

In addition to serving as a base for Army helicopters and unmanned reconnaissance drones, the U.S. Air Force also uses the base for its F-16 fighters. In 2007, an Ohio Air National Guard pilot was killed there when his F-16 crashed shortly after takeoff. After an investigation, authorities said the pilot had apparently "lost spatial awareness" during a night mission made more difficult by dusty conditions.

Elsewhere in Iraq on Sunday, a roadside bomb exploded on a main road in Iskandariyah, 30 miles south of Baghdad, killing the driver of a car and injuring four passengers, a local policeman said. And in Baghdad, unidentified gunmen shot and killed a policeman outside his home, another police officer said.

Both policemen spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the press.



This undated photo released by Pakistan's Inter Services Public Relations Department, shows Sher Muhammad Qasab, a militant commander accused of beheading troops in the northwestern Swat Valley, who was captured this week at an undisclosed location in the valley, army spokesman Col. Akhtar Abbas said Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009.

Associated Press

22 surrendered, it said in a statement. One of the militants killed was a Taliban commander identified as Chamtu Khan, it said.

Captured Pakistan Taliban commander dies in jail

ROBERT KENNEDY

Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A feared Taliban commander known for beheading opponents died in custody from wounds sustained during a fierce firefight with Pakistani security forces last week, the military said.

Sher Muhammad Qasab died Sunday after being critically wounded in the gunbattle in Swat Valley, the army's media center said in a statement. Qasab's three sons were killed when he was captured.

Qasab is an Urdu-language word meaning "butcher." He was given the title because of his ruthlessness toward enemies.

The arrest of Qasab — who had a \$121,000 bounty on his head — was the third from the army's list of 10 most-wanted Swat militants. Qasab allegedly decapitated many Pakistani troops in Swat when the Taliban was in control.

The Pakistan Taliban has been on the run since being cleared from the scenic valley, once a tourist hotspot, and surrounding areas in July after the military launched a major offensive to retake the region in April. The military announced Sunday that security forces killed eight militants in search operations throughout Swat since Saturday. Twenty-three insurgents were also apprehended and another

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Black Hawk crash kills US service member in Iraq

By DAVID RISING

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD — A Black Hawk helicopter crashed at a major American air base in Iraq, killing one U.S. service member and injuring 12 others, the military said Sunday.

The UH-60 Black Hawk went down Saturday night at the Balad Air Base, about 50 miles north of Baghdad, the military said in a statement.

The military said the cause of the crash was under investigation and gave no other details.

The helicopter went down on a night of high winds that tore through the area, whipping up a fierce sandstorm that was followed by thunder, lightning and rain.

The name and other details about the service member killed were being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

The Black Hawk is the military's mainstay tactical transport helicopter, replacing the UH-1 Huey. It is designed to carry up to four crew members and a fully equipped infantry squad of 11, but it was not

clear how many people were aboard the aircraft that crashed Saturday.

With Saturday's death, at least 4,345 members of the U.S. military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

It was not clear what mission the Black Hawk was on when it went down, but the U.S. military relies heavily on helicopters to ferry troops, dignitaries and supplies to avoid the threat of ambushes and roadside bombs.

The Balad Air Base was originally a Saddam-era airfield. It was seized by American forces in the early days of the 2003 invasion and has since grown to be one of the largest in Iraq.

It is now home to more than 20,000 U.S. forces and provides air power, logistics and counterterrorism support, as well as training for Iraqi security forces. Its location offers a good vantage point for intelligence gathering across the entire north and specific areas such as the Iranian border. In addition to serving as a base



A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter is seen between the blades of a Chinook CH-47 helicopter at an air base in Afghanistan Monday, Sept. 7, 2009.

Associated Press

for Army helicopters and unmanned reconnaissance drones, the U.S. Air Force also uses the base for its F-16 fighters.

In 2007, an Ohio Air National Guard pilot was killed there when his F-16 crashed shortly after takeoff. After an investigation, authorities said the pilot had apparently "lost spatial awareness" during a night mission made more difficult by dusty conditions.

Elsewhere in Iraq on Sunday, a roadside bomb exploded on a main road in Iskandariyah, 30 miles south of Baghdad, killing the driver of a car and injuring four passengers, a local policeman said. And in Baghdad, unidentified gunmen shot and killed a policeman outside his home, another police officer said.

Both policemen spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the press. □



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AL Roundup

Tigers beat Twins, increase lead to 3 games



Detroit Tigers' Placido Polanco connects for a two-run single off Minnesota Twins starting pitcher Scott Baker during the fifth inning of a baseball game, Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009 in Minneapolis. Polanco was 2 for 4 on the day with three RBIs as the Tigers won 6-2.

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Placido Polanco drove in three runs and Detroit's bullpen pitched four shutout innings as the Tigers avoided a three-game sweep with a 6-2 win over the Minnesota Twins on

WNBA Roundup

Parker leads Sparks over Storm, 75-64, in decisive Game 3

SEATTLE (AP) — Candace Parker scored 22 points and sparked a second-quarter run that led Los Angeles to a 75-64 win over Seattle Storm on Sunday in the deciding third game of the WNBA Western Conference semifinals. It was the second straight year the Sparks eliminated the Storm in the opening round by winning Game 3 at Seattle. Los Angeles bounced back from Friday night's 75-74 loss in Game 2, in which the Storm scored five points in the final 14 seconds. The Sparks advanced to face the winner of the Phoenix vs.

Sunday to increase their AL Central lead to three games. Ryan Raburn homered for slumping Detroit, which won for the second time in six games and fourth in 13.

Minnesota, which had won

San Antonio match for the conference championship. The Mercury and Silver Stars play Game 3 Monday night in Phoenix.

Parker scored six points during an early 13-0 burst that gave the Sparks a big cushion. Lisa Leslie added 13 points for the Sparks, and extended her WNBA career. The three-time MVP and four-time Olympic gold medalist said prior to the season that this would be her last. Tina Thompson had 12 points for Los Angeles. Swin Cash led Seattle with 21 points and 10 rebounds. Sue

six straight, got two hits from Joe Mauer, who increased his batting average to a major league-best .374.

The teams meet again for four games beginning Sept. 28. It will wrap up a 10-game road trip for Minnesota, and begin a seven-game, final-week homestand for the Tigers, who have three games each in Cleveland and Chicago before going home.

In his fourth start after missing two months following elbow surgery, Tigers left-hander Nate Robertson (2-2) went deep in the count against many hitters but allowed just two earned runs in five innings.

Minnesota's Scott Baker (13-9) took the loss.

Mariners 7, Yankees 1

At Seattle, Ken Griffey Jr. homered and drove in four runs, putting the New York Yankees' playoff party on hold by leading the Mariners to a victory.

The loss prevented New York from clinching a spot in the postseason. The Yankees can

secure their 14th playoff berth in 15 years with a victory at the Los Angeles Angels on Monday night or a Texas loss at Oakland.

The 39-year-old Griffey lined an RBI double in the first inning, then cracked a three-run homer in the second off starter Joba Chamberlain.

Seattle took two of three from the Yankees, who lead the AL East by five games over Boston with 12 to play. One more win — or a Rangers loss — assures New York of at least the wild card.

It was Griffey's first four-RBI game since July 10, 2008, with Cincinnati.

At Baltimore, Jason Bay and Jacoby Ellsbury both homered and drove in three runs to lead Daisuke Matsuzaka and the Red Sox past the Orioles.

Bay's 35th homer tied a career high, and the three RBIs gave him a career-best 110.

The Red Sox outscored Baltimore 23-9 in a three-game sweep. Boston won the season series 16-2, including

the final eight games.

The victory, combined with the Texas Rangers' loss to Los Angeles, reduced Boston's magic number to win the AL wild card to seven. The Red Sox have an eight-game lead over the Rangers.

Jason Berken (5-12) took the loss.

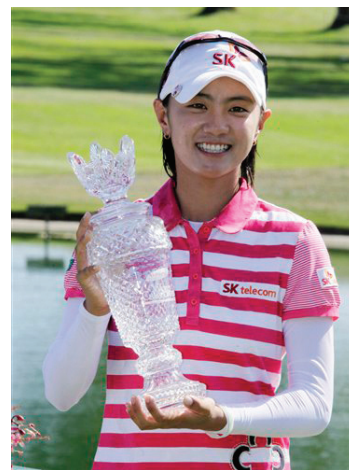
At Chicago, Robinson Tejeda won his third straight start for the Royals, who have won 10 of their last 13 games.

Since moving from the bullpen to the starting rotation on Sept. 4, Tejeda (4-1) is 3-0. He has allowed just two runs over 22 1-3 innings as a starter.

Tejeda allowed one run and three hits in six innings and retired the last seven batters he faced.

In Sunday's AL games it was, L.A. Angels 10, Texas 5; Boston 9, Baltimore 3; Tampa Bay 3, Toronto 1; Kansas City 2, Chicago White Sox 1; Detroit 6, Minnesota 2; Oakland 11, Cleveland 4; and Seattle 7, N.Y. Yankees 1.

Choi loses 7-stroke lead, rallies to win Samsung



Na Yeon Choi, of South Korea, holds the winner's trophy after her victory in the LPGA Samsung World Championship golf tournament on the Torrey Pines south course in San Diego Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009. Choi finished at 15-under 201 to win the tournament.

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Na Yeon Choi lost her seven-stroke lead, then rallied to shoot 1-under 71 to win the Samsung World Championship on the last hole.

"I can't believe that I won," Choi said. "Throughout the second half I thought I was going to lose it again."

Choi finished at 16-under 272 Sunday and held off runner-up Ai Miyazato of Japan, who shot a 69, the low round of the day at Torrey Pines.

Choi began the final round with a two-stroke lead, got birdies on two of her first four holes and made a 10-foot eagle putt on the sixth hole to extend her lead to seven strokes.



Los Angeles Sparks' Candace Parker leaps out of bounds to try to save an errant pass during the first quarter against the Seattle Storm during the third and final game of a WNBA basketball first-round playoff series Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, in Seattle.

Associated Press

Bird had 15 points for the Storm, who have made five straight first-round playoff exits since winning the championship in 2004.



Los Angeles Dodgers Andre Ethier (16) hits a two-run home run off San Francisco Giants starting pitcher Tim Lincecum for his 100th RBI of the season in the third inning of a baseball game on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, in Los Angeles, Calif.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Andre Ethier hit a go-ahead homer off Tim Lincecum as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the San Francisco Giants 6-2 on Sunday to go 30 games over .500 for the first time in almost 24 years. Randy Wolf (11-6) shrugged off a pair of home runs by leadoff hitter Andres Torres, allowing five hits in six-plus innings for the win. The left-hander is 6-0 with a 2.41 over his last eight starts. Ronnie Belliard added a two-run single against Lincecum (14-6), the reigning NL Cy Young Award winner. The Dodgers, trying to win consecutive NL West titles for the first time since 1977-78, reduced their target number to eight for clinching the division and four for securing a postseason berth for the third time in four years. Los Angeles is five games ahead of Colorado in the division

race with 12 to play. The Giants fell 4½ games behind the Rockies for the NL wild card. **Rockies 5, Diamondbacks 1** At Phoenix, Jason Giambi homered for the second consecutive game and Ubaldo Jimenez outpitched Dan Haren to help Colorado tighten its grip on the NL wild card with a victory over Arizona. Colorado expanded its wild-card lead on its three nearest pursuers because San Francisco, Florida and Atlanta all lost. The Rockies lead the Giants by 4½ games, the Marlins by five and the Braves by 5½. Giambi, who had a three-run, pinch-hit homer in the ninth inning of Colorado's 10-4 victory Saturday night, added a two-run shot off Haren (14-9) in the eighth. That gives him 11 RBIs in his 12 games since joining the Rockies.

NL Roundup

Dodgers beat Lincecum, Giants 6-2

Jimenez (14-11) gave up a run and five hits through seven innings, striking out eight.

Phillies 4, Braves 2

At Atlanta, Philadelphia ended rookie Tommy Hanson's streak of 19 consecutive scoreless innings, damaging Atlanta's small wild-card hopes. Brad Lidge pitched another shaky ninth inning but posted his 31st save in 41 chances. The NL East-leading Phillies took two of three in the series.

Philadelphia tagged Hanson (10-4) for four runs and seven hits, including four for extra bases, in five innings.

Tyler Walker (2-0) gave up one hit in two scoreless innings following the delay. Ryan Madson struck out the side in the eighth and Lidge

took over with a 4-1 lead to begin the ninth.

Reds 8, Marlins 1

At Cincinnati, Corky Miller hit a rare home run to back Kip Wells' strong pitching as Cincinnati gained a split of its four-game series against Florida.

Miller's three-run shot and Joey Votto's two-run homer created a cushion for Wells (2-4), who went seven-plus innings. It was his longest outing since being acquired by the Reds in July.

Brewers 6, Astros 0

At Milwaukee, Prince Fielder hit his 40th homer and Yovani Gallardo pitched five solid innings to help Milwaukee complete a sweep of Houston with its fifth straight victory. The Astros lost their seventh

consecutive game, matching their longest skid this season.

Fielder, who came in tied with Albert Pujols with a major league-best 127 RBIs, hit a solo shot in the first inning and set a club record in the fifth when he walked for the 100th time this season.

Corey Hart and Jody Gerut also homered for Milwaukee. Gallardo (13-12) became the fourth Brewers pitcher with 200 strikeouts in a season and first since Ben Sheets had 264 in 2004.

Felipe Paulino (2-10) extended his career-worst losing streak to six games.

Mets 6, Nationals 2

At New York, John Maine pitched five shutout innings to earn his first win since May 31 for New York. □

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WILLIAM FOREMAN
Associated Press Writer

SHANGHAI (AP) — Tyson Gay ran the second fastest 100 meters of all time on Sunday when the American sprinter clocked 9.69 seconds to win his event at the Shanghai Golden Grand Prix meeting. Gay matched Usain Bolt's winning time in last year's final at the Beijing Olympics, then a world record, but which the Jamaican has since eclipsed with his astonishing run of 9.58 seconds to win the 100 title at last month's world championships in Berlin. The American, who had come home in 9.71 in Berlin, powered to victory in Shanghai ahead of Asafa Powell of Jamaica, who clocked 9.85. It was a special day too for team mate Carmelita Jeter in her 100 meters race, where the American became the second fastest woman of all time in 10.64. Only the late Florence Griffith-Joyner has been faster over the distance — a total of three times, including her world record of 10.49 set in 1988.

Jeter's performance improved on Marion Jones's time of 10.65, set at altitude in Johannesburg in 1998, and left her well clear of Jamaica's Veronica Campbell-Brown in 10.89 at the Shanghai meet. There was more for the fans to enjoy with Chinese hurdler Liu Xiang placing second in his first race since a foot injury forced him to pull out of the Beijing Games one year ago. Liu received boisterous applause from his hometown crowd and put his hand to his heart before collapsing on the track after finishing the 110 meter hurdles in 13.15 seconds. He has been one of China's most popular athletes after winning the country's first Olympic gold medal in track at the Athens Games in 2004. American Terrance Trammell, who placed second at the world championships last month in Berlin, won the race in a photo finish. In other events, Russian pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva made another attempt at improving her world record

Gay runs second fastest 100 meters of all time

but failed to clear 5.07 meters — one centimeter higher than her current mark. Isinbayeva, who has broken the world outdoor and indoor marks 27 times, won Sunday's meet with a vault of 4.85. Poland's Anna Rogowska placed second with 4.60, and her compatriot Monika Pyrek got third with 4.50.

In the men's 200, Wallace Spearmon pulled away comfortably in the last 70 meters to win in 20.57 seconds. Kim Collins of St. Kitts and Nevis placed second in 20.90, and American Shawn Crawford came in third, clocking 21.04.

American Lashawn Merritt, first at the World Championship, won the 400 in 45.28. Robert Tobin of Britain place second in 45.49, and Gary Kikaya won third in 45.63.

Kenya's Augustine Choge unleashed his kick in the final 200 meters in the men's 800 and cruised away from South Africa's Mbulaeni Mulaudzi, who won at the worlds in Berlin. Choge finished in 1 minute, 44.10 seconds, while Mulaudzi clocked 1:45.68 and Bram Som finished in 1:45.78.

Amine Laalou of Morocco won the 1,500 meters with a blistering surge that began in the final 200 meters, finishing

in 3:34.19. World champion Yusuf Saad Kamel of Bahrain placed second in 3:34.94. Belal Mansoor Ali of Kenya was third in 3:35.18. Jamaican world champion Melaine Walker won the

women's 400 hurdles in 54.68. Romania's Angela Morosanu was leading around the final turn but placed second in 55.11 as Walker kicked past her in the final stretch. Poland's Jesien placed third in 55.29.



NASCAR driver Mark Martin celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the Sylvania 300 NASCAR auto race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon, N.H., Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009.

Associated Press

Martin grabs 5th win of season in Chase opener

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

LOUDON, N.H. — Mark Martin held off Denny Hamlin and Juan Pablo Montoya on a late frantic restart to win the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship opener at New Hampshire Motor Speedway.

It was Martin's series-best fifth victory of the season and spoiled what could have been a blockbuster day for Montoya. Making his 100th career start on his 34th birthday, Montoya won the pole in record-breaking speed and led every practice session while setting the stage for just his second career Sprint Cup Series victory.

Instead, Martin used pit strategy to move to the front and take the lead, forcing Montoya, who led a race-high 104 laps, to chase him down. □

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Extraditan a EEUU a importante guerrillera de las FARC

BOGOTA (AP) - Colombia extraditó a Estados Unidos el sábado a Nancy Conde Rubio de las FARC, a quien las autoridades interceptaron sus llamadas telefónicas y así consiguieron realizar el rescate de 15 secuestrados en poder de la guerrilla. Entre los cautivos de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias (FARC) se encontraban tres estadounidenses. Conde, de 37 años, fue extraditada en un avión de las autoridades antidrogas estadounidenses, dijo el jefe de la dirección de investigación criminal de la policía (Dijin), general Luis Ramírez. Agregó que el avión se dirige inicialmente a la Florida y desde allí la detenida, que llevaba las manos esposadas y un chaleco antibalas, será conducida ante la corte que la requiere. Junto a Conde fueron extraditadas el sábado otra mujer y ocho hombres, todos solicitados por Estados Unidos

por delitos de tráfico de drogas, entre ellos Gildardo Rodríguez Herrera, capturado en mayo del 2008 y quien es buscado por una corte del sur de la Florida por asociación delictuosa para importar, poseer y distribuir cocaína, indicó la Dijin en un comunicado. En lo que va de año, agregó el organismo, 152 colombianos han sido extraditados. Conde, alias "Doris Adriana", es solicitada por una corte del Distrito de Columbia, en Estados Unidos, por delitos de "conspiración para favorecer organizaciones terroristas" y "apoyo material a organizaciones terroristas". La detenida era la compañera sentimental del guerrillero Gerardo Aguilar, alias "César", también extraditado a Estados Unidos en julio y quien fue el encargado de custodiar en cautiverio a los tres estadounidenses y la ex candidata presidencial Ingrid Betancourt, entre otros rehenes.

En una operación realizada el 2 de julio del 2008, el ejército rescató a Betancourt, a los tres estadounidenses y a 11 policías y militares. En el operativo también fue

capturado "César". Parte de los datos que condujeron a ese rescate partieron de una llamada hecha por Conde en el 2003 a conocidos en Miami con el fin

de que la ayudaran a conseguir teléfonos satelitales para las FARC, según han dicho investigadores colombianos y estadounidenses. □

Sismo de 5,1 grados en zona fronteriza de México-EEUU

CALEXICO, California, EE.UU. - Un sismo de magnitud moderada sacudió el norte de México y se sintió en el sur de Estados Unidos, desde San Diego hasta el suroeste de Arizona, pero no se reportaron daños ni víctimas. El sismólogo Dale Grant, del Servicio de Geología de Estados Unidos, dijo que el movimiento de 5,1 grados de magnitud se sintió poco antes de las 16.00 horas locales del sábado. El epicentro fue localizado a 37 kilómetros (23 millas) al sureste de la ciudad fronteriza mexicana de Mexicali, a una profundidad de unos 10 kilómetros (6,2 millas). Se registraron varias réplicas, la mayor de

4,2 grados de magnitud, unas dos horas después del sismo inicial. El Servicio de Geología de Estados Unidos recibió informaciones de que hubo personas que sintieron el temblor hasta a unos 193 kilómetros (120 millas) al oeste del epicentro del sismo, en San Diego, así como a unos 96 kilómetros al este, en Yuma, Arizona. Operadores del Departamento de Policía de Caléxico informaron que su estación se sacudió brevemente, pero no hubo informaciones de daños o víctimas. Caléxico está a 193 kilómetros al este de San Diego y tiene una población de 27.000 habitantes. □

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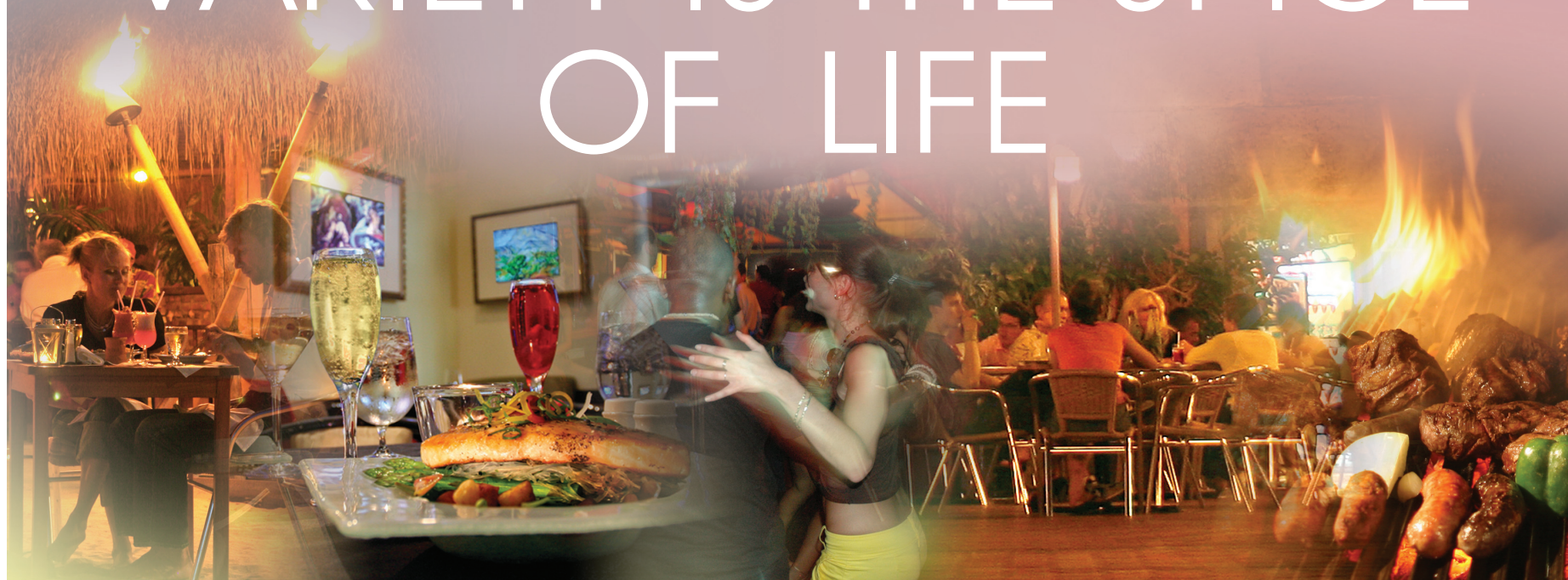
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